



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

Contact: Kevin Kelly

Phone: (573) 751-9300

Governor Office Building, Suite 900

FY-05-123

PSC URGES CONSUMERS TO CONSIDER ENERGY CONSERVATION

Jefferson City (December 27, 2004)---Missouri consumers should take the necessary steps to try and conserve energy and weatherize their homes to help lessen the impact of a utility bill reflecting cold weather and increased usage.

Missouri Public Service Commission Chair Steve Gaw said consumers should not be deterred by milder temperatures and should look for ways to save money on their energy costs.

“Consumers should always look at their home and see how to make it more energy efficient. Energy saving tips such as changing furnace filters each month when dirty, adding attic insulation if necessary and closing fireplace dampers when the fireplace is not being used can reduce consumption and reduce those winter heating bills,” said Gaw.

“As we have previously stated, wholesale natural gas prices are higher this year than they were last winter which certainly impacts the budgets of customers,” stated Gaw.

The wholesale cost of natural gas (the cost your local natural gas company must pay to its suppliers for natural gas) is not regulated by the Missouri Public Service Commission. Wholesale prices are determined in an open, competition-based market and are subject to wide variations depending on a number of factors including supply, demand and the weather.

In addition, customers should consider contacting their local natural gas or electric company to ask about budget billing, which spreads total energy costs over a 12-month period.

Those in need of assistance in paying their heating bills should contact their local community action agency to see if assistance is available. There are 19 Missouri Community Action Agencies located throughout the state. Each agency has specific service regions. To find out more, call 573-526-4836 or visit <http://www.dss.mo.gov/dfs/liheap.htm>